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March 14, 2012

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

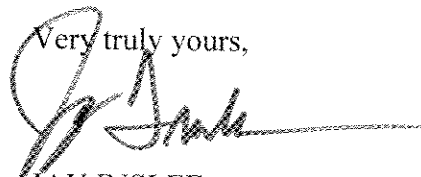
Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the City of Seattle's application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER IV grant.

According to the City, funding from this grant will be dedicated to the Mercer West Project, a critical transportation connection that carries more than 70,000 people a day. It has been a major traffic bottleneck in the Seattle area, limiting access to the growing South Lake Union area, the Seattle waterfront, the Seattle Center, and major federal and state highways. Centrally located, this project supports four key sectors of the regional economy including: information technology, biotechnology, travel and tourism, and international trade. The project also aims to improve access for bicyclists and pedestrians, creating a more sustainable and livable environment for a growing community.

I am pleased to hear that this project will create over 500 direct jobs, providing an economic boost to our region. In addition, completion of the project will improve freight mobility and access to the passenger cruise ship industry, which Sound Transit estimates to have an economic impact of \$393 million.

I applaud the City of Seattle for their work in coordinating a critical infrastructure project that will contribute to the economic development and livability of this vital part of the city. I encourage your full and fair consideration of their proposal.

Very truly yours,  
  
JAY INSLEE  
Member of Congress